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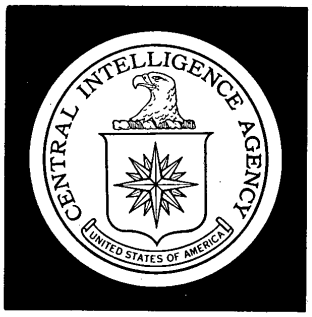

The President's Daily Brief

28 June 1971

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

28 June 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Soviets' space program suffered a major setback Saturday when their largest space booster, the J-vehicle, failed shortly after lift-off. *(Page 1)*

In Laos, Vang Pao's irregulars have occupied the southern summit of Phou Seu ridge on the southwestern edge of the Plaine des Jarres. *(Page 2)*

India

Pakistan

(Page 3)

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Page 4

France

Greece.

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Moscow

Japan

(Page 5)

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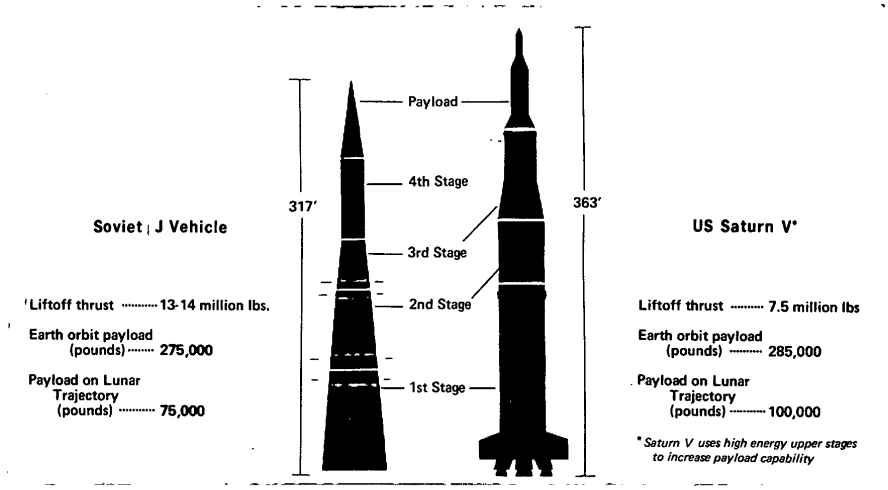
Second Soviet Attempt to Launch J Vehicle Fails



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USSR

The Soviets' space program suffered a major setback Saturday when their largest space booster, the J-vehicle, failed shortly after lift-off from the Tyuratam space center.

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The four-stage J-vehicle is capable of placing 275,000 pounds in low earth orbit or 75,000 pounds on a trajectory to the moon. The booster is estimated to have a thrust of 13 to 14 million pounds at lift-off compared with the 7.5 million pounds developed by the Saturn V, the largest US booster. The Saturn V, however, can launch heavier payloads for lunar missions because it uses high-energy propellants in its upper stages.

There is no known connection between the J-vehicle launch attempt and the current Soyuz 11-Salyut mission, although the cosmonauts were instructed to observe the failure. Soviet ground control told the cosmonauts to look out the window for a fire like a high magnitude star.

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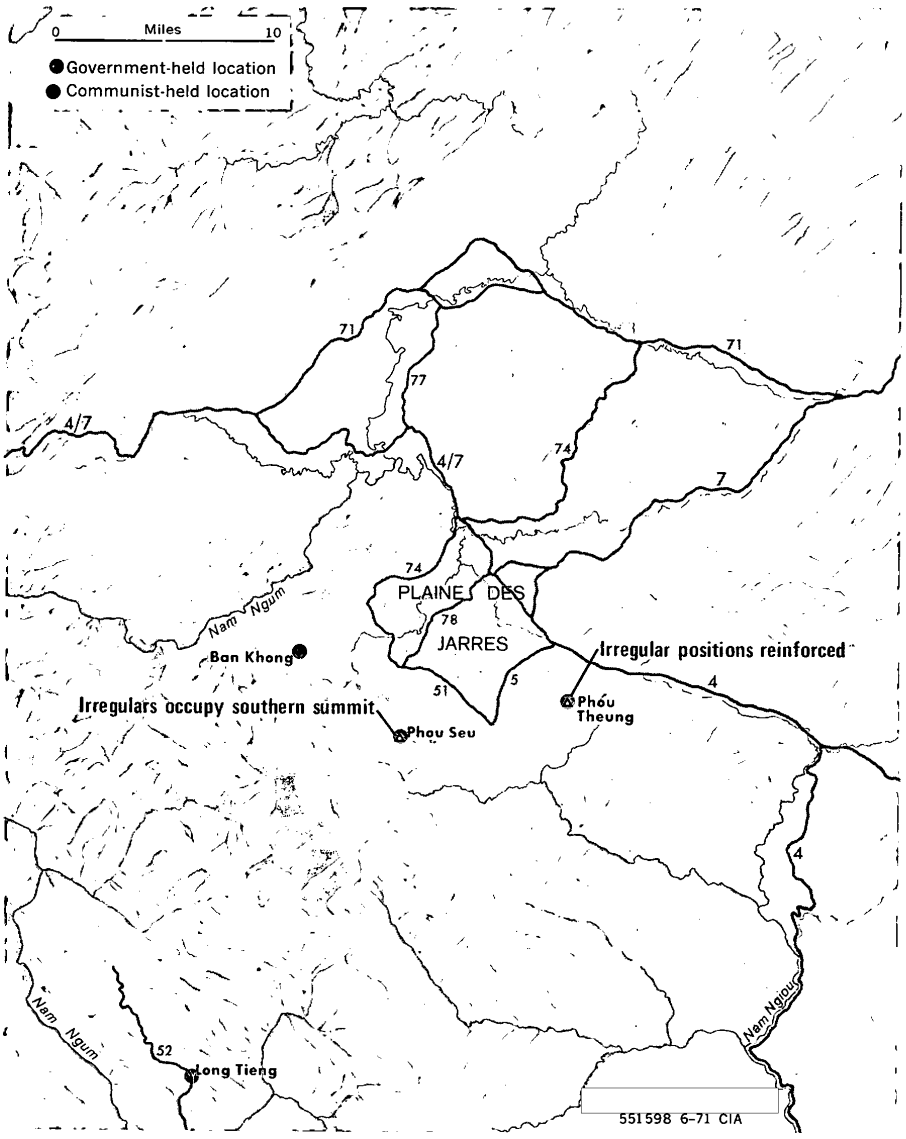
LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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LAOS

On 26 June Vang Pao's irregulars occupied the southern summit of Phou Seu, the important ridge on the southwestern edge of the Plaine des Jarres and a key objective of their current offensive. Fighting has continued around the northwestern end of the ridge. In addition to the gains at Phou Seu, the irregulars have taken some high ground near Ban Khong farther to the northwest. On the eastern side of the Plaine, the government's newly won positions on Phou Theung have been reinforced by additional irregular units.

Intercepts indicate that North Vietnamese forces are making preparations to counter the irregulars' inroads into areas where Communist supply lines and storage facilities on the Plaine are threatened. Elements of two North Vietnamese regiments which have recently been shifting positions--the 148th and 165th--have received orders to make attacks on the irregulars at Phou Seu and Phou Theung. A third NVA regiment--the 866th--is also in the area and could support a Communist counterattack.

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INDIA-PAKISTAN

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FRANCE-GREECE

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USSR-JAPAN

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NOTE

Communist China

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